



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1950.



The Castle,

Barnstaple,

July, 1951.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year
1950.*

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., Barnstaple.

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List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

MISS E. FENNELL

Clerk.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	..	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar General figures)	...				16,060
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,776
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£117.896
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...		...	...	£470

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	116	104	220
	Illegitimate	5	5	10
				230
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	14.32
		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	7	3	} Total 12
	Illegitimate	1	1	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				49.6
		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS		104	113	217
DEATH RATE per 1,000	...	...	...	13.51

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Death Rate is shown corrected by the areal comparability factor, viz. :—0.80.

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 (corrected)	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	14.32	0.74	10.8	26.0	0
England and Wales	15.80	0.37	11.6	29.8	1.9

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1914 to 1948 inclusive :—

1914—1918	71·90
1919—1923	57·46
1924—1928	68·08
1929—1933	44·19
1934—1938	59·91
1939—1943	48·71
1944—1948	38·24
1949	24·39
1950	26·09

Deaths of Infants under one year.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	2	4	6

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	1	3	4
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	26·0

Deaths over 65 years (Local)

65—69	...	19	80—84	...	33
70—74	...	26	85—89	...	28
75—79	...	33	90—94	...	9
			95	...	2
Total		150			

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1945	1	8	22	6
1946	3	9	23	14
1947	1	10	36	6
1948	0	6	35	6
1949	0	3	30	4
Average	1	7	29	7

1950	3	8	36	3
------	---	---	----	---

The following table gives the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever notified in the Borough compared with previous years :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Para Typhoid.
1942 ...	9	100	0	0
1943 ...	29	12	1	1
1944 ..	23	6	1	15*
1945 ...	8	3	0	2†
1946 ...	6	0	1	1‡
1947 ...	6	0	0	1
1948 ...	28	0	0	0
1949 ...	9	0	0	0
1950 ...	4	0	0	1||

* 12 of these cases attributed to a source of infection outside the district.

† Both cases were admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from the Rural District.

|| This case admitted to North Devon Infirmary from Rural District.

‡ Contracted outside the Borough.

Poliomyelitis.

During the year 11 cases of acute Poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough. Of these three were non paralytic and eight paralytic, and there were two local deaths.

NOTE :—For the fifth consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases.

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1947, as Agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 15 beds, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicklecombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 20 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Branton Nursing Home.

During the coming year a General Practitioners Maternity Unit of 13 beds will be opened at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

NOTE. During 1950, 58 Barnstaple births took place at Ilfracombe, and 6 at Branton.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. It comprises 34 beds (six of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

Small-Pox.

The Small-Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small-Pox will be sent is Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter. Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone 67158.

General.

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital in Barnstaple.

At Branton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

This service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the Medical Practitioners.

In the near future a new Pathological Laboratory will be available at the former North Devon Dispensary, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, to serve the needs of the North Devon area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

V.D. Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions—

Females.	Mondays, 4 p.m.	Males.	Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.		Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic held at North Devon Infirmary.

Sessions—

Tuesdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. refills
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e., the Devon County Council), is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the Agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and district, and the Head Quarters are in Commercial Road. The staff consists of 3 paid members (full time) 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There are two official whole-time Midwives in the Borough, also a private practising Midwife.

At the North Devon Infirmary there are seven Midwives, also one at the Alexandra Hospital and two at Beech Hill Nursing Home.

There are also three District Nurses in the Borough.

Home Helps Scheme.

This is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers all Barnstaple Borough and Rural Areas wherever transport is available. There are 24 Home Helps in Barnstaple, and 69 cases were dealt with in 1950.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, or District Nurse, is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the home normally done by the Housewife. Six cases are being dealt with at the moment, in looking after old people living by themselves who otherwise would have to go to a Hospital.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information for 1950.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Number of children who received a course or primary injections	...	...	...	296
Number of children who received a reinforcing injection	321

VACCINATION.

Number of children vaccinated against smallpox	151
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I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information:—

Barometer.	Highest reading 30·6 ins. Lowest reading 29·0 ins.
Temperature.	Maximum 84° 5th & 12th June. Minimum 19° 25th & 26th January. Mean for the year 50·9°
Rainfall.	39·0 ins. Average preceding 10 years 32·46 ins. No. of days on which '01 ins. or more of rain fell, 211.

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10				
10—15		1		1
15—20	1			
20—25				
25—35	1	1		1
35—45	1			1
45—55	2			
55—65	2			
65 and over				
Totals	7	2	0	3

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year			1	
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				
15—20				
20—25				
25—35	1			
35—45	1			
45—55				
55—65				
65 and over	0			
Totals	2	0	1	0

Infectious Diseases Notified (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Sonne Dysentery	Paratyphoid "B"	Food Poisoning (Enteritis)	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio- myelitis		Diphtheria	Admitted to Hospital				
										Paral. Non-P.	Polio- myelitis		Scarlet Fever	Para- typhoid "B"	Erysipelas	Paral- ytic	Non- Par.
Under 1 year		1				4		1	1	1					1		
1 to 2 years									3	1					1		
2 to 3 years						2		2		1					1		
3 to 4 years		1	1			3		3	4	1					1		
4 to 5 years	1							1	5								
5 to 10 years	3	1				4		6	4	1		2				1	
10 to 15 years		1				1		1		1					1		
15 to 20 years						1				1					1		
20 to 35 years		1			1	2	6			2				1	2	2	
35 to 45 years		2				3											
45 to 65 years		1			3	4											
65 years & over		1			4	4											
TOTAL ...	4	9	1†	1	4§	28*	6†	14	17	8	3	—	2	1	1	8	3

† Paratyphoid. Rural District case at North Devon Infirmary. Transferred to Isolation Hospital.

§ Erysipelas. One case at North Devon Infirmary from Burrington.

* Pneumonia. One case at Alexandra Hospital from Ilfracombe.

† Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases at North Devon Infirmary from Ilfracombe and Monkleigh. Two cases at North Devon Infirmary from Berrynarbor and Bude. Transferred to Isolation Hospital. Bude case died. One local case died at home, and one at Isolation Hospital.

† Paratyphoid. Rural District case at North Devon Infirmary. Transferred to Isolation Hospital.

§ Erysipelas. One case at North Devon Infirmary from Burrington.

* Pneumonia. One case at Alexandra Hospital from Ilfracombe.

† Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases at North Devon Infirmary from Ilfracombe and Monkleigh. Paralytic Poliomyelitis. Two cases at North Devon Infirmary from Berrynarbor and Bude. Transferred to Isolation Hospital. Bude case died. One local case died at home, and one at Isolation Hospital.

For the fifth year in succession no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Causes of Death during the Year 1950

Causes of Death			M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	...	2	0
Tuberculosis, Other ...	...	...	1	0
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	2	0
Measles ...	...	...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	...	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	...	...	3	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	...	0	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	...	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	...	...	9	10
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes ...	...	...	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	10	15
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	13	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	7	4
Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	30	33
Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	1	6
Influenza ...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	3	5
Bronchitis ...	...	...	4	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	...	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	...	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	4	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	...	0	0
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	0	0
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	...	...	7	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	0	0
All other Accidents ...	...	...	1	2
Suicide ...	...	...	1	0
Homicide and operations of War ...	...	...	0	0
All Causes ...	...	...	104	113

Sanitary Inspector's Report

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
July, 1951.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my thirtieth Annual Report on the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during 1950.

During the preparation of this report the condition of my health (which had been deteriorating for some time) caused some anxiety and I was forced to obtain medical advice, with the result that I was pronounced unfit to continue in office. I had no alternative but to resign after serving for 30 years as your Sanitary Inspector.

It was over 40 years ago that I commenced as an articled pupil in the Health Department of the Torquay Corporation.

To have lived through two world wars (1914-1918 on active service and severely wounded) does have its effect later in life.

I have always endeavoured to carry out my duties to the best of my ability and I trust to the satisfaction of the Town Council.

I take this additional opportunity of thanking the members of the Corporation and particularly the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for all the kindness shown to me at all times and for their generous consideration of my services.

I wish also to record my grateful thanks to Mr. Coope and to Miss Fennell for their loyal and devoted Services to the department.

To all the other Officials and especially to Dr. Martin I would say "Thank you for the support and consideration afforded to me."

Information respecting the various duties carried out by the department are set out in the pages which follow.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Owing to the increasing number of houses being built it became necessary to have a larger vehicle and an arrangement was made with Messrs. Shelvoke and Drewry, of Letchworth, to supply a new vehicle of 11 cubic yard capacity, and to take back the 7 cubic yard No. 3 Freighter which was purchased from them in October, 1946. The new vehicle known as No. 4 commenced working on 1st August and is proving very satisfactory. Unfortunately the vehicle was too long to enter the Tuly Street Garage and it became necessary to provide accommodation at Victoria Street depôt.

As it was impossible for this vehicle to be used in some of the narrow thoroughfares considerable alterations in collecting arrangements had to be made.

During the financial year ended March, 1951, the following figures were returned:—

Vehicle	Loads of Refuse, &c., Collected.				Miles Travelled	Gallons of Petrol	Miles per Gallon
	House	Trade	Slaughter- house Offal	Clinkers and Sleepers			
1	75	10	33	1.6	690.4	130	5.3
2	1174	365	174	9	5211.6	1160	4.6
3							
until 31st July	204	270	85	—	1769.0	308	5.7
4							
from 1st Aug.	915	68	14	3	3832.6	787	4.8
	<u>2368</u>	<u>713</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>11503.6</u>	<u>2285</u>	
1949 figures	2234	725	298	—	10667.7	1843	

It will be seen that the loads collected were increased by 268 and the mileage by 836.

The amounts of refuse collected based on test weighings were

House Refuse 3,868 tons. Trade Refuse 655 tons

In addition 3,363 bins of slaughter-house offal were removed weighing approximately 169 tons.

The average amount of refuse collected from each dwelling during the year was 16 cwts.—the same as for 1949. Tipping commenced at Rock Park in 1940 and finished in May, 1950, and up to that date 35,579 tons of house and trade refuse were delivered by the Health Department, also 716 tons of slaughter-house offal. In September we were asked to fill in the old duck pond and it took 801 tons making the total deposited by the department 37,096 tons. In addition many hundreds of tons of rubbish were taken there by the Surveyor's department and by private persons.

The weight of refuse collected is increasing yearly. In 1931 it was 2,428 tons and this year 4,523 tons. There are increases in wages, price of petrol and tyres together with the increased cost of collecting from the new houses on the Forches Estate compared with those in the immediate vicinity are additional reasons why this service is costing more.

Tipping at Raleigh commenced in May, 1950, and up to March, 1951, 3,340 tons of refuse have been deposited there.

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value:—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	67	6	0	0	497	0	0
Newsprint	..	4	14	0	60	16	8
Books and selected waste	11	11	1	0	157	6	5
Rags ...	...	2	2	12	3	9	1
Cord ...	...	4	0	0	10	0	
Brass ...	...		1	0	15	0	
	83	18	0	12	£720	7	2

Approximately 304 tons of kitchen waste collected by pig keepers during 1950.

Since 1939 1,650 tons salvage collected value £10,425.

Since 1940 4,134 tons of kitchen waste collected.

The following shows the costs in detail.

Refuse Collection.

S.D. FREIGHTERS.				COLLECTION.								
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Wages—Drivers	...	680	2 10				1303	6	8	(Collectors)		
„ Slaughter-house												
„ Offal removal		40	11 3				79	10	0			
„ Removal of												
„ Sleepers and												
„ Ashes for Tip		27	2 7				29	2	9			
Holidays	...	40	13 4				26	2	7			
Sick Pay	...	27	19 4				10	8	8			
				816	9	4				1448	10	8
Insurance—Health	}			91	18	7				158	1	3
Superannuation												
General												
Petrol	...	329	14 2									
Oil and Grease	...	25	4 2									
				354	18	4						
Tyres	...			80	5	4						
Licences—Road	...	119	8 1									
„ Driving	...		1 0 0									
„ Insurance	...	21	17 7									
				142	5	8						
Repairs	No. 1	...	2 19 9									
	No. 2	...	8 5 10									
	New Piston											
	„ Rings	...	16 11 4									
	No. 3	...	5 5 3									
	No. 4	...	1 3 11									
				34	6	1						
Clothing	...			7	16	0				23	1	0
Rent of Garage Tuly St.		26	0 0									
„ New Garage	...	7	10 0									
				33	10	0						
Water	...					12	3					
Sundries	...					9	17	5	Printing	...	4	4 3
				£1571	19	0				£1633	17	2

Refuse Disposal and Salvage.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages—Tip ...	570	9	6			
Salvage ...	352	10	5			
Sleepers ...	1	9	6			
Holidays ...	42	6	3			
Sick Pay ...	21	16	1			
	<hr/>			988	11	9
Insurance—Health } Superannuation } General }				124	5	9
Hired Haulage ...				5	12	3
Clothing ...				11	17	9
Tools and Plant ...				5	7	10
Clinkers ...				28	10	6
Fencing, &c., and Bulldozing ...				338	4	2
Salvage Sundries—						
Repairs to Baler	2	18	6			
Sacks ...	13	16	8			
Balax ...	18	2	0			
Leaflets ...	3	15	0			
Sundries ...	1	8	1			
	<hr/>			40	0	3
Rent of Dépôt ...				78	0	0
Rent of Tip—Rock Park				2	10	0
Rent of Store—Raleigh Tip				6	18	0
Other Expenses ...				11	9	
				<hr/>		
				£1630	10	0
				<hr/>		

Summary.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Refuse Collection	1633	17	2	Refuse Disposal	1630	10	0
S.D. Frieghter (Proportion)	1559	19	0		12	0	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£3193	16	2		£1642	10	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		

Total Expenditure ... £4836 6 2

TOTAL COSTS		TOTAL INCOME	
Estimate	Actual	Estimate	Actual
£	£	£	£
4041	4836	Trade Refuse	320
		Removal of S.H. offal	200
		Salvage	720
		<u>£520</u>	<u>£1300</u>

It will be seen from the above figures that the total cost was exceeded by £795 and this was due to increases in wages, petrol, oil and tyres—amounting to £546. Additional work required at the Tip and because of Salvage £40 was spent on materials.

On the other hand income was more by £780 due largely to Salvage showing an overall net increase over the estimates of £15. This should be considered very satisfactory.

				£
Total cost of Collection and Disposal (less slaughter-house offal)	...	...	...	4716
Total income (less slaughter house offal)	...	...	...	1099
Net Cost	...	...	...	<u>3617</u>
Net Cost per ton (House and Trade Refuse) per annum	...	...	...	s. d. 16 0
Net Cost per 1,000 population	...	...	...	£226
Rate in the £	...	77	pence	

Meat and Food Inspection

1,286 visits of inspection were made to premises where food is prepared or sold for human consumption.

29,627 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Council's Public Abattoir as follows :—

Cows	Heifers	Steers & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1478	973	891	5519	19936	830 (95 home consumption)

In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection—

Beasts, 4. Calves, 2. Sheep, 240. Pigs, 36.

The number of casualty carcasses was 3250, made up as follows—

Beasts, 484. Calves, 1019. Sheep, 1430. Pigs, 317.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS. 47 cases were found during the year. The following table shows the animals affected and the location :—

Cows	Heads	6	Hearts	2	Skirt	0
Heifers	„	12	„	7	„	1
Steers	„	8	„	8	„	1

This is an increase of 36 over last year. The same care has been exercised in the inspection to detect Cysticerci, but as the number of beasts examined was 497 more such increase is not altogether unexpected.

The following cases of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis were reported to the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Health Division.

Generalised—

Cows, 43. Heifers, 12. Steers, 10. Bull, 1. Calves, 10. Pigs, 2.

Partly Affected—

Cows, 15. Heifers, 4. Steers, 3. Bull, 1. Calves, 4.

Total 105.

9 Licences were issued to slaughtermen.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation :—

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Carcases of Beef	... 193	75 Generalised Tuberculosis 22 Tuberculosis with Emaciation 1 Tuberculosis with Dropsy and Inflammation 4 Tuberculosis with Dropsy 1 Tuberculosis with Extensive Injury 1 Tuberculosis with Pleurisy 1 Tuberculosis with Johne's Disease 27 Dropsy and Emaciation 6 General Dropsy 1 Acute Fever 14 Johne's Disease with Emaciation 1 Johne's Disease & Extensive Injury 14 Extreme Emaciation 1 Inflammation and Emaciation 4 General Inflammation 1 General Anæmia & Johne's Disease 1 Pyæmia 2 Septic Peritonitis 1 Peritonitis and Dropsy 1 Peritonitis and Emaciation 1 Acute Peritonitis 1 Peritonitis and Congestion 2 Pleurisy and Peritonitis 1 Extensive Pleurisy 1 Extensive Injury 1 Septicæmia 1 Leukemia 5 Moribund 1 Decomposition
Fore Quarters of Beef ... with certain offals	32	Tuberculosis (21 carcasses)
Fore Quarters of Beef ...	2	Extensive Bruising (1 carcass)
Part Fore Quarters of Beef ... with certain offals)	5	Tuberculosis (4 carcasses)
Hind Quarters of Beef ... with certain offals	6	Tuberculosis (4 carcasses)
Hind Quarters of Beef ...	2	Multiple Abscesses (1 carcass)
Three Quarters Beef ...	1	Injury and Dropsy (1 carcass)
Side of Beef ...	1	Extensive Injury and Pleurisy
Shoulder of Beef ... with certain offals	4	Tuberculosis (3 carcasses)
Part Shoulder of Beef ... with certain offals	1	Tuberculosis

Article	No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Cows Heads	... 220	147 Tuberculosis (other than from carcasses and part carcasses) 25 Actinomycosis 12 Abscesses 26 Cysticercus Bovis (one also T.B.) 5 Dropsy 1 Carcinoma 4 Various
Beef	... 125 lbs 162 lbs 43 lbs 2446 lbs 19 lbs 4453 lbs 103 lbs 150 lbs 524 lbs 682 lbs 80 lbs 59 lbs 60 lbs	Tuberculosis Dropsy Enlarged Joint Injury Pleurisy Peritonitis Abscess Bruising Fracture Cysts Nephritis Various
Carcasses of Veal	... 120	9 Generalised Tuberculosis 1 Tuberculosis with Immaturity 76 Immature, etc. 12 Dropsy and Emaciation 3 Extreme Emaciation 6 Moribund 5 Jaundice 1 Peritonitis 1 Septicæmia 4 Congestion 2 General Inflammation
Veal	... 26 lbs 34 lbs 196 lbs 78 lbs 58 lbs	Nephritis Injury Pleurisy Various
Carcasses of Pork	... 8	2 Tuberculosis 2 Inflammation 1 Septic Peritonitis 1 Decomposition 1 Dropsy and Anæmia 1 General Dropsy
Pigs Heads	... 39	Tuberculosis

Article		No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Pork	...	...	Tuberculosis—Part Carcase & offal
		33 lbs	Fracture
		43 lbs	Enlarged Joints
		21 lbs	Congestion
237 lbs		12 lbs	Deformity
		24 lbs	Injury
		42 lbs	Peritonitis
		12 lbs	Septic Condition
		16 lbs	Abscess
		11 lbs	Various
		23 lbs	
Carcases of Mutton	...	235	22 General Dropsy
			73 Dropsy and Emaciation
			7 Dropsy and Anæmia
			9 Dropsy associated with other affections
			5 General Anæmia
			5 Emaciation and Anæmia
			5 Emaciation
			33 Moribund
			15 Septic Condition
			3 Gangrenous Condition
			17 General Inflammation, etc.
			6 Dystokia, etc
			2 Toxæmia
			7 Peritonitis
			4 Nephritis
			4 Decomposition
			3 Jaundice
			15 Injury, etc.
Mutton	...	...	Injury
		498 lbs	Dog Injuries
		109 lbs	Dystokia
		570 lbs	Pneumonia, etc.
		800 lbs	Pleurisy
		356 lbs	Peritonitis
		45 lbs	Fracture
		52 lbs	Septic Conditions
3683 lbs		125 lbs	Inflammation
		171 lbs	Dropsy and Emaciation
		100 lbs	Decomposition
		59 lbs	Dropsy
		465 lbs	Deformity, etc.
		109 lbs	Congestion
		30 lbs	Abscess
		38 lbs	Taint
		56 lbs	Gangrene
		25 lbs	Various
		75 lbs	
Offals	...	64244 lbs	Various

Article		No., &c.	Reason for Condemnation
Also Beef ...		56 lbs	Injury
		16 lbs	Abscess
		121 lbs	Bone Taint (Home Killed)
		252 lbs	" " (Imported)
		319 lbs	Bone Taint
Mutton ...		11 lbs	Injury
		4 lbs	Abscess
		6 lbs	Soiled in transit (Imported)
		12 lbs	Stale (Imported)
		15 lbs	Injury
Pork ...		14 lbs	Fracture
Veal ...		10 lbs	Abscess
Fish ...		422 lbs	Decomposition

The following table gives particulars of Livers condemned:—

		Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Livers	Fluke	388	...	585	...
	Cavernous Angioma	73	...	...	...
	Fatty	22	3	155	...
	Abscesses	53	4	10	1
	Cysts	...	2	6	1
	Cirrhosis	9	3	2	5
	Congestion	2	...	52	1
	Parasitic Abscesses	...	...	370	...
	Necrosis	1	...	...	1
	Tuberculosis	185	7	...	...
	Various	3	1	29	...
		736	20	1209	9

Portions of Livers Fluke 1138 Beasts 1038 Sheep

Food in Tins			Blown, &c.	
Meat	...	226 tins		Total tins 869
Fish	...	57 "	"	
Vegetables	...	137 "	"	
Fruit	...	238 "	"	
Jam	...	69 "	"	
Soup	...	22 "	"	Weight 1537 lbs
Fruit Juice...	...	15 "	"	
Milk	...	90 "	"	
Various	...	15 "	"	

Various		No. etc.	Reason for Condemnation
Chocolate			
Wafers	...	21	Soiled
Crumpets	...	55	"
Sweets	...	22 lbs	Contaminated
Semolina	...	54 lbs	Affected with Mites
Pudding			
Mixture	...	24 Packets	"
Flour	...	15 lbs	Contaminated
Cheese	...	5 lbs	Mouldy
Dried Fruits		233 lbs	"
Sugar	...	2 lbs	Damp
Fruit	...	3 Jars	Mouldy
Pickles	...	4 Jars	Broken
Paste	...	2 Jars	"

TOTAL WEIGHT 362 lbs.

			Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse			75	15	2	3
" " " Shops	...	...	...	7	1	24
Fish	...	...	...	3	3	2
Food in tins	...	...	...	13	2	25
Other Food	...	...	...	3	...	26
			77	3	2	24

Of the 75 tons 15 cwts. 2 qr. 3 lb. condemned at the Slaughterhouse, 37 tons 19 cwts. 1 qr. 27 lbs. came from casualty carcasses.

709 meat condemnation certificates and 304 other food condemnation notes were issued in connection with the above.

The following shows the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

	Cows	Heifers	Oxen	Calves
Whole Carcases—Generalised ...	51	13	12	10
with emaciation, dropsy, etc.	26	1	2	...
Forequarters, head, lungs, liver, skirt & stomach ...	2	...	1	...
„ head and lungs ...	1	...	1	...
„ head, lungs and liver ...	2	...	...	...
„ lungs, liver and skirt ...	2	...	1	...
„ and lungs ...	2	1	..	...
„ head and lungs ..	1	...	1	...
„ head, lungs and liver ...	2	...	...	...
„ head, lungs, liver & stomach	3	...	...	...
„ head, lungs, liver & kidney	...	1	...	...
„ lungs, liver and stomach	1	...	...	...
„ lungs, liver and heart ...	1	...	...	...
Part Forequarters, head, lungs, liver, skirt and stomach ...	3	...	...	...
„ head, lungs, and skirt ...	1	...	...	...
„ head, lungs and liver ...	2	...	1	...
„ head and lungs ...	1	...	...	...
„ and lungs ...	3	...	1	...
Hindquarters, lungs and udder ...	1	...	...	...
„ head, lungs, liver & stomach	...	1	...	...
„ head, lungs liver and skirt	1	...	1	..
Head ...	40	14	17	...
Head and lungs ...	33	7	10	1
Head, lungs and liver ...	4	4	2	...
Head, lungs and skirt ...	5	...	...	...
Head, lungs, liver and skirt ...	...	3	3	...
Head, lungs, liver and udder ...	1	...	...	...
Head, liver and stomach ...	1	...	...	...
Head, lungs and stomach ...	3	1	1	...
Head, lungs, liver and stomach ...	4	2	...	...
Head, lungs, liver, kidneys and heart	1	1	1	...
Head and stomach ...	...	...	1	...
Lungs ...	92	15	9	1
Lungs and skirt ...	15	...	...	...
Lungs and liver ...	17	8	4	...
Lungs, liver and skirt ...	9	3	...	...
Lungs, liver and stomach ...	3	2	...	...
Lungs and stomach ...	6	...	1	...
Lungs, liver, skirt and stomach ...	1	...	...	...
Lungs, liver, skirt and kidney ...	...	2	...	...
Liver ...	4	2	1	...
Liver and stomach ...	1	...	...	...
Stomach ...	2	...	...	...
Pluck ...	...	...	...	7
Totals	348	81	71	19

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1864	1478	5519	19936	830
„ brought in dressed ...	2	2	2	240	36
Number inspected	1866	1480	5521	20176	866
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	31	57	110	235	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	815	883	76	3891	118
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	45·3%	63·5%	3·3%	20·4%	14·3%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	28	77	10	...	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	124	271	9	...	46
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	8%	23·5%	·34%	...	5·5%

Milk and Dairies.

The year 1949 marked the end of the traditional sanitary supervision of milk production and the beginning of a new central administration under the Ministry of Agriculture. Health Authorities like Barnstaple remain responsible for—

- 1 The sanitary conditions of the distributive trade other than producer retailers.
- 2 Control by licence of the sale of milk under special designations.
- 3 Provisions with regard to the infection of milk from either human infectious diseases and from certain diseases of bovine origin.
- 4 The prevention of the sale of milk from animals infected by tuberculosis and other specified conditions.
- 5 The enforcement of the provisions as to the nature, substance and quality of milk.

Sampling of milk for bacteriological examination has undergone changes. Routine milk sampling for tuberculin tested and accredited production as well as from non-designated producers were regularly taken by this department.

The methods now adopted are far from satisfactory. Whilst samples of designated milk are taken by the National Milk Testing Service no samples are taken of non-designated milk which forms the greater part of the supply.

33 samples of milk were submitted to the County Laboratory for the detection of tubercle.

27 were negative.
5 inconclusive.
1 positive.

In the latter case the necessary action was taken for the milk from the herd to be pasteurised whilst further tests were made.

The number of Dairies in the town under local supervision is now reduced to 18.

The following licences were issued to sell.

Tuberculin tested milk 12.
Pasteurised 1.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following table show inspections, &c., carried out during 1950.

1—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1 Non Mechanical Factories ...	36	13	Nil	Nil
2 Mechanical Factories ...	152	73	2	Nil
3 Other premises (excluding out workers premises) ...	4	2	Nil	Nil
Total ...	192	88	2	Nil

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Premises	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	...			
Overcrowding ...	...			
Unreasonable temperature ...	...			
Inadequate ventilation ...	...			
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	...			
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	...			
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	2			
(c) not separate for sexes ...	...			
Other offences (not relating to Home Work) ...	...			
Total ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK

Section 110

Section 111

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Section 110			Section 111	
		Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel						
—Making ...	77	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace Curtains and Nets ...	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	98	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Food and Drugs.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year, with the results of their examination :—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total	
Milk ...	14	1	15	genuine 10 genuine 3 not genuine 872 19% deficient in fat (see remarks overleaf) 878 broken in transit similar sample analysed by Sanitary Inspector contained fat 3.2% N.F.S. 8.52% 880 5% deficient in fat 881 3% " " (see remarks overleaf)
Milk appeal to cow)	3		3	(1) as per 800 genuine (2) as per 881 } both low in non (3) " " } fatty solids (see remarks overleaf)
Sausages—Beef		1	1	genuine 62% meat inclusive of total fat
Cheese ...		1	1	pure growth of streptococcus fæcalis (this organism is nor- mally present in many varieties of cheese)
Meat in tin ...		1	1	culture sterile
Tomatoes in tin		2	2	(1) blown—streptococci organisms found (2) sound—culture sterile
	17	6	23	

In addition to the above 27 samples of milk were analysed by your Sanitary Inspector.

Sample 872. This sample purchased from a producer retailer in the normal way contained 2·43% fat and 8·76% non fatty solids and therefore was 19% deficient in fat. In order to ascertain the cause of the deficiency two informal samples were taken, the first was drawn from the tap in the same way as the formal sample, and the second after the milk had been thoroughly mixed by plunging. The analysis showed the former to contain 2·45% fat and 8·85% solids not fat, and the latter approximately 3% fat and 8·52% other solids. It was obvious that the dairyman had failed to keep the milk properly mixed and was so informed. Some days later three more informal samples were taken from this producer all of which were genuine. Whilst all dairymen had been warned by circular letter that milk should be kept mixed during delivery the producer had failed to do so. The Council decided to give a further warning.

Sample 880. This was purchased from a producer retailer, and the public analyst reported 5% added water. It contained 8·07% non fatty solids whereas genuine milk should contain at least 8·5% non fatty solids. The following day three informal samples were taken from this producer, analysed at the office, and each contained more than 8·5% non fatty solids. As soon as the result of the formal sample was received a visit was made to the farm and an "appeal to cow" sample taken which on analysis showed 8·77% non fatty solids. This was well above the minimum requirement. As the cows milked were exactly the same as on the day the first formal sample was taken, this result gave sufficient evidence to warrant legal proceedings; but the Council decided to warn the offender.

Sample 881. This was obtained from a producer retailer and contained 3·39% fat and 8·24% non fatty solids. It was 3% deficient in non fatty solids. "Appeal to cow" samples showed (1) fat 3·84% and non fatty solids 8·31% and (2) 3·3% fat and 8·33% non fatty solids. This was a clear case that no legal action should be taken, but that the producer should be advised on the matter.

One sample of genuine milk was from Channel Island cows and contained 5·8% fat and 9·1% non fatty solids.

The other genuine samples of milk showed an average percentage of fat of 3·4 and non fatty solids 8·8.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following investigations were made :—

Scarlet Fever 4. Scarlet Fever Contact 1. Suspected Paratyphoid 1.

Food Poisoning 1. Poliomyelitis 10. Sonné Dysentery 2.

Additional visits :—re Tuberculosis 25. Sonné Dysentery 7.

Poliomyelitis 1.

Disinfections were :—Tuberculosis 9. Scarlet Fever 3.

Poliomyelitis 9. Nuring Home 1.

Verminous 29.

Four separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

Housing.

The number of houses inspected was 356 and re-visits in connection with work found necessary 461.

Verminous premises eradicated 31.

The total number of houses built during the year :—

By Local Authority 55	}	64
„ Private Enterprise 9		

The families accommodated at the new Council Houses consisted of 118 adults and 140 children.

Ice Cream.

54 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from 11 different producers (Barnstaple producers Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 10) and were graded as follows :—

30 were satisfactory —Grade 1.

14 „ fair — „ 2.

4 „ unsatisfactory — „ 3.

6 „ very bad — „ 4.

The following table gives the individual results and it will be seen that the samples from 4 different producers were in grade 1.

4 different producers were in grades 1 and 2 and one producer had only 1 failure out of 6 samples.

Rodent Disinfestation (other than Sewers).

We have one full time Rodent Operator and the work is carried out strictly in accordance with N.S. 19.

Number of visits made in connection with treated premises	...	...	..	...	1151
Number of visits where no treatment found necessary					881
Total quantity of sausage rusk and bread mash used					5411 ounces
Total quantity of poison used	...	...	...		185 „
Poison bait consumed	...	...	...	...	612 „
Number of rats killed (estimated minimum)				...	1530
Number of bodies found by operator			...	...	116

Sewers.

The 5th and 6th Maintenance Treatments were carried out in March and September respectively. Altogether 141 manholes were baited (14 more than last year). Test baits were taken from 39 manholes and in 102 no takes were recorded.

Poison baits were taken from 35 manholes and from 106 there were no takes. This shows that the rat population in the sewers this year was much less than in 1949. This is proof that the work done is very satisfactory.

Mr. Williamson has been the Rodent Operator since 1944.

From time to time he has been asked by the Ministry to train persons in this work for neighbouring Local Authorities, and which he had done well.

I wish to express thanks to him for the satisfactory way he has carried out his duties, and for the loyal support which he has given to me.

Sewer Treatment.

SECTION	No. of manholes baited		AVERAGE PRE-BAIT TAKES				POISON TAKES			
	5th Maintenance	6th Maintenance	5th Complete	5th Partial	6th Complete	6th Partial	5th Complete	5th Partial	6th Complete	6th Partial
Town	13	16	7	1	2	2	0	7	0	4
Trinity	14	20	5	0	6	1	0	5	0	7
Derby	17	18	3	1	3	0	0	4	0	0
Other Areas	1	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pilton	9	14	3	0	5	0	0	3	0	5
	54	87	18	2	16	3	0	19	0	16
Total No Takes			34	68	35	71				

5th Maintenance—504 ozs. Bait used (Bread Mash). Poison Bait used 112 ozs. Poison Bait consumed 28 ozs. Estimated kill 70

6th Maintenance—468 ozs. Bait used (Sausage Rusk). Poison Bait used 200 ozs. Poison Bait consumed 20 ozs. 30

It is a pleasure to record the very helpful co-operation received at all times from Mr. James, the rodent inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following store licenses were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	60
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	3
Petroleum Spirit and Crude Benzol	...		...	1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures			...	8
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	4
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Mixtures and Carbide of Calcium			...	1
		Total	...	<hr/> 78 <hr/>

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	205,101 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,056 lbs.
Crude Benzol	...	3,800 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	1,504 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licences was £55 10s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of mixed explosives was 26.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations
carried out during the year 1950**

	Public Health Act	Food & Drugs and Milk & Dairies
New sets of house drains laid ...	1	...
Drains repaired ...	12	...
Drains cleared ...	47	...
Fresh air inlets provided ..	2	...
New soil pipes fixed ...	7	...
New interceptors fixed ...	3	...
New vent pipes provided ...	7	...
New inspection chambers built ...	10	...
New gullies fixed ...	11	...
New water closets ...	10	...
W.C.'s repaired ...	9	...
New W.C. pans provided ...	33	...
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	18	...
Rain pipes repaired ...	2	...
Premises cleansed ...	2	16
Plaster repaired Internal ...	14	2
External ...	7	...
Windows repaired or renewed ...	22	2
Floors renewed and repaired ...	19	3
Washing facilities provided ...	1	5
New scullery troughs provided ...	1	...
New scullery waste pipes fixed ...	3	...
Dampness remedied ...	11	...
Bath provided ...	6	...
Kitchen stoves repaired ...	5	...
Roofs repaired or renewed ...	21	...
Guttering renewed or repaired ...	18	...
Yards repaired or renewed ...	6	...
Lighting improved ...	1	...
Articles or clothing cleaned ...	...	3
Smoke & water tests applied to drains	56	...
Premises where nuisances abated ...	167	...
Vermin eradicated ...	31	...
Offensive accumulations removed ...	1	...
Wash basins in bathroom ...	4	...
Staircases repaired or renewed ...	1	...
Walls repaired ...	5	1
Doors repaired ...	15	...
Water supply improved ...	1	1
Windows cleansed ...	...	4
Miscellaneous ...	20	...

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	3556
Houses inspected, Public Health Act			...	...	356
Revisits	...	...	...	...	461
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops				...	938
Food preparing premises		...	...	...	51
Visits to other food shops		..	..	...	251
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	48
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	77
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	11
Factories	...	...	...	...	86
Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	85
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	..	...	280
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	8
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...	9
Letters written	...	...	...	...	334
Statutory notices, Public Health Act			...	...	1
Informal Notices, Public Health Act			...	...	73
„ „ Factories		...	...	...	6
„ „ Food & Drugs		...	...	...	49
Letters re Milk and Dairies		...	...	...	31
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	132

